



June 18, 1969

*Copy*

James F. Banta  
7118 E. 111th Terrace  
Kansas City, Mo. 64134

Dear Mr. Banta:

I am sorry to have to tell you that I have not had very good luck finding the newspaper articles you requested. I did find the death notice for Albert Banta in the Terre Haute Daily Express, March 24, 1882. In our "Cemetery Records of Vigo County, including all born prior to 1830, that lived to Maturity", there is a reference to Albert Banta, which says that he was born August 31, 1827, died March 23, 1882, and was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, Terre Haute. Our library has only the early cemetery records, and only the very early marriage records. The Vigo County Board of Health would have a death record for you of the death of Robert Banta. Their address is 120 So. 7th St. They would also have birth records after 1900. ~~Early~~ Death records may be purchased from the Indiana State Board of Health in Indianapolis. I wonder whether the Banta family actually lived in Terre Haute. I know that in the early days there was a family living in Parke County. I am enclosing an article about Jacob Banta, one of the early settlers of Parke County, from Beckwith's History of Vigo and Parke Counties. I am also enclosing an article on the Banta Family which was given us by Mrs. EE Ramsey, many years ago. Perhaps these may be helpful. I hope so.

There is a Robert E. Banta, an author and book collector, who lives in Crawfordsville, Indiana, at the present time. I assume that he is of that same pioneer family who were in this part of the country early. His address is 211 Pike Street, in case you should want to correspond with him.

I hope that some of the above information will prove to be helpful.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth C. Ross  
Hd. Local History Division.

# The Banta Family Record

JAMES F. BANTA  
7118 E. 111TH TERRACE  
KANSAS CITY, MO. 64134  
FAMILY GENEALOGIST

June 14, 1969

Elizabeth Ross  
Vigo County Library  
Terre Haute, Ind.

Dear Madam:

In reference to the article in the recent issue of the Tri-State Trader, concerning items available in your Library. If back issues of the Terre Haute papers contain anything on the following items, I would like very much to have photocopies made of the items.

In addition to the photocopies, I would like very much to have the records of all Banta-Bonta burials in Vigo County cemeteries if these records are available.

Find enclosed a check for two dollars for the photocopies and for copying the cemetery records. Please do not refund any money and if this does not cover the cost, please advise.

## Photocopies -

Deaths - Albert Banta died Terre Haute, Mar. 23, 1882  
Robert Banta " " " June 24, 1903

*(Cm Records V.C. including  
all born prior to 1880  
not listed)*  
born Aug 31, 1827 bur. Woodlawn Cemetery

Births - Son, to David and Rose Banta, Jan. 24, 1892

Weddings - David T. Banta to Rose Roberts, Sept. 23, 1891  
Evaline or Evelyn Banta to Clarence Quail, May 17, 1917

Thank you very much for your time and trouble.

Sincerely,

*James F Banta*

James F. Banta

From (Mr. G. E. Ramsey) - Banta Banta Ramsey  
REFERENCE  
DO NOT CIRCULATE

3 Banta family ✓  
\* Jacobse, Epke

THE BANTA GENEALOGY - FRISIAN FAMILY

Theodore M. Banta, Editor, Brooklyn, N.Y.

**Excerpt from PREFACE:**

The Constitution of the Holland Society of New York (organized 1885) prescribes that members must trace their lineage in the male line to Dutch citizens who were residents in the American Colonies prior to 1675

The Family Name has had various spellings - Banta , Bonta , Bonte

Only one family bearing the name of Banta which it has not been possible to connect with the original progenitor, Epke Jacobse.  
(signed) Theodore Banta

Chapter One -

Use of family name was not common among the early emigrants from Holland to the New Netherlands. To distinguish one John, for example, from another, there was added to the name the baptismal name of his father, usually with the addition of s, se, or sen, indicating the relationship. Thus: Epke, the son of Jacob was known as Epke Jacobs, or Epke Jacobse.

Sometimes the name was derived from the place of birth. Thus: Jan from the town of Wyck, was called Jan van Wyck to distinguish him from Jan, from the city of Norden, who was called Jan van Norden. Frequently the surname represented the trade of its bearer. For instance: Jan, the cooper, was known as Jan Kiuper; and Jan the mason, was Jan Metselaar.

The progenitor of the Banta family in America did not bear this surname (BANTA) on his arrival in this country. In all the records yet found his name appears as Epke Jacobs, which as above stated means simply Epke, the son of Jacob. Epke is a Frisian name, nearly corresponding to the English Egbert. The sons of Epke Jacobs, namely: - Cornelius, Seba, Hendrick, Derrick (or Dirk) and Weart, appear in the earliest records as Cornelius Epke, Seba Epke, or Epkese, etc. The first appearance of the family surname, Banta, so far as known, is in the records of the Dutch Reformed Church of Hackensack, Bergen County, New Jersey, August 22, 1696. On this date in the Marriage Register is the following record:

Jonannes Meyer from New York, with Jannetie Cornelius Banta from Ackinsack.

Chapter Two - THE FRISIAN EMIGRANT

Page 3 - The ancestor of the Banta Family in America, Epke Jacobs, was a farmer who lived in the vicinity of Harlingen, an important seaport of Friesland, the most northern of the provinces of Holland . . .  
. . . A view of Harlingen as copied from an ancient print: - "The inhabitants of Friesland still retain that strong passion for liberty which distinguished their ancestors, together with their old customs and manners of living, even to the ancient Frisian dialect and accent, which latter circumstance renders the language, of the country people in particular, unintelligible to the other Netherlanders." -Busching

Page 3 - of genealogy continued: -

The Frieslanders are noted as a tall and muscular race.

It may be observed that the baptismal name "Epke" is very uncommon. Mr. James Riker, Author of the History of Harlem, stated that he had searched in vain many old Dutch chronicles and histories (full of christian names) for that of Epke. The compiler of these records (Theodore Banta) has examined almost all of the early Dutch church records of this country and has found it only when borne by a descendant of Epke Jacobs, the progenitor of the Banta Family.

Page 4 - of genealogy: -

First record that has been preserved of the forefathers of the Banta Family: - Bill of charges for passage to America - translated from the Dutch it reads as follows: - Epke Jacobs from Harlingen, farmer(boumann) Debet.

For passage and board when he came over on the ship DeTrouw, Jan Jansen, Bestevaer, skipper, Feby. 12, 1659 - - - - - Fl. 36

For his wife and five sons of 3/4, 2, 3, 4, and 6 yrs. 108

Cash received from the Lord Directors - - - - - 15

Fl. 159

Upon arrival in the New World he (Epke Jacobs) probably settled in Flushing, on the north shore of Long Island, about eleven miles from New York. Unfortunately all the town records of Flushing were destroyed by the burning of the town clerk's house in 1789 - so we are cut off from information here. . . . .

Neither his name nor that of his wife appear on the records of any of the Dutch churches here that have been preserved. v . .

Mr. James Riker (History of Harlem) has seen the signature of Epke Jacobs on an original deed dated in 1685, conveying a farm in Bergen County, New Jersey, to Hendrick Jorese Brickerhoff, and recognized this signature as that of the same person in Valentine's Manual.~~for~~

Explanatory note: - Valentine's Corporation Manual for 1863 contains a page headed, "Fac-similes of the Original Autographs of the Burgomasters and Shepens, and other distinguished individuals in the early history of the City of New York." Among these names is that of Epke Jacobs, though it is incorrectly stated to be "Sibnd Jacobs."

Accordingly the records of the Clerk of the Common Council, in the City Hall, New York, were searched, and the following mentioned document was brought to light. It became of special interest to us (the author) because it made known the residence and occupation of the forefather of the Bantas in this country, and gave us a specimen of his hand-writing, the signature in the book being his own sign-manual.

The book is labeled

No. 4
Burgomasters and Schepenen
1661 - 1663

Both the label and English inscription, however, are erroneous, the Volume being really the record of transactions with the notary, Solomon La Chaire. The records, of course, are in Dutch and the penmanship so poor that several words could not be understood.

Page 10 of genealogy: -

- |   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Issue of Epke Jacobs  | 1. Jannetie De Pre'           |
| 1. Cornelius Epke b. 1652 - married                           | 2. Magdalena Demarest         |
|   | 3. Ableche Slood Van Orden    |
| 2. Seba Epke b. 1654 - married Mary Arianse Sip               | 1. Maria Lubbertse Westervelt |
| 3. <u>Hendrick</u> Epke b. 1655, married                      | 2. Angenitie Hendrick         |
| 4. Derrick (Dirk) Epke b. 1657 - married Ester Dedricks       |                               |
| 5. Weart Epke b. May 1658, married Gerritje Jillis Mandeville |                               |

These sons of Epke Jacobs all supposed to be born in Holland.

Record of real estate transfer - June 9, 1686:

Deeded to Epke Jacobs 240 acres on west side of Hackensack River, north of what is now known as Cherry Hill and extending westward to Wynocksack brook. This covered what was formerly known as Shuckup and is now named Spring Valley.

This farm came into the possession of eldest son, Cornelius, under law of primogenitor then prevailing. During his lifetime Cornelius gave west half or all of it to his son John, some of whose descendants have continued in possession of a portion of it to this day.

My line in the BANTA Family is as follows:

Epke Jacobs (1) Hendrick (2) Hendrick (3) Hendrick (4) Albert (5)  
Albert (6) Jacob A. (7) Lorena Jane Elizabeth (8) Blanche Banta  
Sleeper (Ramsey) (9)

\*Hendrick (2) Epke Banta married at Bergen New Jersey, Nov. 17, 1678 -  
first wife, Maritje (Maria) Lubbertse Westervelt

Issue:

1. Jacob bp. Nov. 26, 1679 - m. (1) Diever Hendrickse (2) Jannetie van Horn (3) Cornelia de Graew
2. Angenitie b. Apr 12, 1682 - m. Jacobus Hendricks Blinkerhoff
3. Rselof bp. Aug. 25, 1683

4. Sitske (no dates given) m. Johannes Jacobs van Winkle

\*Hendrick (2) married Angenitie Hendrick for his second wife (no date)

Issue/ of this second marriage:

5. Hendrick (3) b. Jan. 13, 1696 - m. Geertruy Terhune

6. Margriete b. June 14, 1700 - m. Roelof Martense

\*Hendrick (3) married at Hackensack, N.J. January 26, 1717, Geertruy, dau. of Albert Terhune, Jr. who was baptized Nov. 6, 1694. Hendrick joined the church at Hackensack, January 18, 1718. He was a blacksmith.

Issue of this marriage:

1. Hendrick (4) married:
  - 1. Rachel Brower
  - 2. Ann Demarest
2. Wyntie bp. Aug. 13, 1721 - married Samuel Duryea
3. Angenitie b. May 1724
4. Albert b. Aug. 29, 1728 - married Lena van Voorhees

\*Hendrick (4) married at Schraalenburgh, Aug. 12, 1738, Rachel, dau. of Abram Brower and Leah Demarest. Rachel died 1750 Hackensack, Bergen County, New Jersey.

Hendrick married Antie Demarest (given also as Ann) Oct. 25, 1758. Antie Demarest, dau. of Samuel David and Lea Demarest.

*For issue see pg. 5*

Ten years later - early in 1768 - the family removed to Conewago, York County, Pennsylvania near the present site of Gettysburg. Henrick was a member of the church there at its formation and probably an elder.

A deed given by one, Van Arsdale, in 1768 for land adjoining that of Henry Banta.

Records of the Conewago church begin Oct. 23, 1769 - on that date among others a child of Henry Banta was baptized.

About 1780 with a colony from Conewago Henry migrated to Kentucky and located near Boonsborough on the Kentucky River, to which place Capt. Daniel Boone had moved with his family for or five years previously and made a settlement.

"White Oak Spring one mile above Boonsborough was settled in 1779 by Capt. Nathaniel Hart and some Dutch families from Pa.

"Not far is a spring 12 ft. square at the top and 100 feet deep boiling up pure, cold and fresh and flowing off in a large constant stream." "They were respectable people and the men good soldiers. But they were unaccustomed to Indian warfare, and some ten or twelve men all were killed except two or three." (Look up Collins History of Kentucky for the above details)

First Dutch emmigration to Kentucky, White Oak Springs 1780-1781 on the Kentucky River one mile above Boonsborough. -

Among the emigrants were Henry Banta, Sr., Henry Banta, Jr., Abraham Banta and John Banta.

Later they went to where Harrodsburg now stands. In a few years they established themselves permanently in Pleasureville then "Six Mile" in Henry County. There some of them purchased twelve thousand acres of land which they called the "Low Dutch Tract", and divided it among themselves.

An account of the settlement of the "Low Dutch Tract", written by Mr. George W. Demaree, was published by the Shelby Courant, Shelbyville, Kentucky May 15, 1873. (Quoted at length in the Genealogy, page 51)

(Story of Capt. Jake Banta - "Shaker John Banta - found on page 59)

Hendrick (4) and Rachel Brower

Issue: -

1. Hendrick bp. July 27, 1740 - married Maria Stryker
2. Abraham, Apr. 18, 1742 - died in infancy
3. Leah, Jan. 15, 1744 - married Jacobus Montfort
4. Abraham (second of that name) July 7, 1745 - married Margrieta Montfort
5. Albert April 20, 1747 - married Styntie Montfort
6. Geertruid, December 3, 1749 - married Frans Montfort

Hendrick (4) and Antie (Ann) Demarest, second wife

Issue: -

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. Theodore Williamson   |                               |
| 7. Rachel b. Dec. 19, 1751 married   | 2. Simon Van Arsdale          |
| Baptized in Somerset Co., New Jersey   |                               |
| 8. Samuel, June 13, 1753 - married Dyna Dorland  |                               |
| 9. Pieter, Feb. 9, 1755 - married Elizabeth Gosijs   |                               |
| 10. John, Sept. 1756 - married Polly Riker   | 1. Mary Magdalena Shuck Durie |
| 11. Cornelius - married - - - - -  | 2. Agnes Shuck                |
|  | 3. Nancy Van Nise             |
| 12. Daniel, b. 1765 - married Annie Shuck Durie  |                               |
| 13. Jacob - married Catherine Vorhees dau. of Daniel Voohees and Maria Tallman. Killed by Indians in Kentucky (see page 51 of Genealogy) |                               |
| 14. Mary - married Henry Shively. Baptized at Conewago, Pa.  |                               |
| 15. Antie, bp. Oct. 23, 1769 - married Barnett Rynierson (see pg 60)   |                               |
| 16. David, bp. May 31, 1771 - married Mary DeMott  |                               |
| 17. Isaac bp. Aug. 24, 1773  |                               |
| 18. Angenitie, July 23, 1775 - married William Gordon (Interesting note on Wm. Gordon at foot of pg. 60 of Genealogy)                    |                               |
| *19. Hendrick b. Mch 1, 1778 - married Molly van Arsdale   |                               |

\* Records of nineteen of Hendrick's twenty-one children found.



Hendrick (4) Banta, father of twenty-one children, is said to have left a larger number of descendants than any other man in Kentucky.

Hendrick (5) son of Hendrick (4) and brother of our ancestor Albert (5) married April 29, 1761 - Maria Stryker who was born June 11, 1738. He died in Pennsylvania just before his youngest son was born. When the babe was six months old, the widow was killed by the falling of a tree. The nine children were cared for by their grandfather who took them to Kentucky. They were reared with his own very large family of twenty-one children. *See note page 7*

\*Albert (5) Banta married Styntie Montfort, who was baptized Dec. 8, 1751. The first five children named below were baptized at Conewago, Pa., the others probably in Kentucky, Mercer County.

Issue: -

1. Hendrick bp. Conewago, Oct. 23, 1769 - married Eliza Piatt
2. Peter, bp. May 31, 1771 - married Effie Hale
- \* 3. Albert <sup>(6)</sup> bp. Nov. 27, 1772 married Mary Ackerman
4. Jan bp. Apr. 2, 1775 probably died in infancy
- 5. Abraham b. June 27, 1778 - married Catherine Mills
- <sup>6</sup> Rachel married Peter van Ausdall
7. Hannah married David Ausburn
8. Isaac married Mary van Ausdall sister of Peter. He lived in Columbus, Ohio.

Mr. Albert Banta (5) was spoken of as a "predominant ruler here" (Kentucky) Later he removed from Kentucky to Preble County, Ohio, where he died.

~~\*Albert (6) Banta married Styntie Montfort, who was bp. Dec. 8, 1751--~~

\*Albert (6) Banta was born in Conewago, Pa. and married August 12, 1800, Mary Aukerman (Ackerman) who was born March 12, 1782 and died March 16, 1858. Albert Banta was a farmer in Kentucky and moved to Preble County, Ohio, and subsequently to Randolph County, Indiana. He died April 15, 1853

\*Albert (6) Banta married Mary Aukerman as given above

1.

Issue: -/Jacob A. b. July 27, 1812 - married Mary Rohrer, May 30, 1832

2. Albert Montfort b. Feb. 21, 1819 - married Hannah Allen
3. Elisabeth b. Aug. 18, 1801, married William Jones
4. Rachel b. Jan. 18, 1804 - married David Banta
5. John V. b. June 1, 1810 - married Catherine Rohrer, sister of Mary Rohrer, wife of Jacob A.
6. Mary b. March 29, 1808 - married Robert Irvin
7. Sarah b. Feb. 21, 1805 - married Matthew S. Sawyer

*Not listed in chronology of  
order in genealogy of*



8. Catherine b. Nov. 14, 1814 - married Joel Root

9. Eliza b. Jan 21, 1817 - married Joseph Hickman

\* \* \* \* \*

Note: - referring to Hendrick (4) Banta - page 5 of this account -

Henry Banta (4) son of Hendrick (3) Banta and Geertruy Terhune was our Revolutionary ancestor. He was born in Hackensack, N. J. in 1718 and died in Kentucky in 1805. He served on the Committee of Observation in York County, Pennsylvania - town of Conewago, near present site of Gettysburg.

\* \* \* \* \*

Jacob A. (7) Banta and Mary Rohrer

Issue: -

1. Mary - married Henry Lamb

2. Rachel - married Richard Betz

3. Sarah Ann married Beatty

4. Barbara - married Spencer

5. Agnes - married Martin Stoler; 2nd marriage Myron Barbour

6. Walter - married Syna Steele

7. Lorena - married William W. Sleeper

*father of*  
*Mother of* *Blanche Banta Ramsey*

Two children Lewis and Valentine died in infancy